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A8 H53 WAR FOOD ADMINISTRATION

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM MARKET NEWS REVIEWS  
Week ending June 1, 1945

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Potatoes: Demand the past week continued to hold fob and wholesale prices at ceiling. Shipments from the Kern County, California area increased the past week to 3,489 cars, compared with 2,685 the previous week, and 2,150 cars for the same week last year. Top day the past week recorded shipments of 794 cars. Total shipments for the season to date for the Kern area are 9,122 cars, compared with 8,913 cars last season to the same date.

Cherries: Shipments to date for California total 386 cars, compared with 259 cars last season to the same date. Past weeks shipments total 202 cars. Truck shipments continue heavy, and prices on the western wholesale markets remained at ceiling on the better grades. Some rain damaged stock was on the local markets at lower prices.

Varieties now reaching the local markets are Burbank, Rockport, Bing, Black Tartarian, Royal Ann, Republican, Lambert and Black Oregon.

Apricots: Carlot movement from California now totals 26 cars this season, compared with 19 cars last season to the same date. 25 cars were shipped during the past week.

Prices on the western wholesale markets closed the week at mostly 11 cents per pound in the southwest, and 16 cents per pound in the northwest for packed stock.

Cantaloups: Truck shipments from the Imperial Valley, California increased in volume the past week. Shipments by rail were confined to those originating in Texas, and totaled 29 cars in the U.S. for the week, 10 less than last year for the same week.

On the California wholesale markets Imperial stock closed the week firmly at ceiling.

Cool nights in Imperial Valley have retarded cantaloup maturity. It is expected that shipments from Yuma may start next week, and from Phoenix about the 20th of June.

First honeyball melons from Imperial Valley were picked Friday of the past week, but only a few crates were packed out.

Tomatoes: In the northwest, Washington grown hothouse tomatoes are now found on the markets, also field grown stock from Imperial Valley, California, and Texas. Ceiling prices prevailed in the wholesale markets on the west coast.

DAIRY AND POULTRY

Eggs: BAE records show that during April 1945, 377,759,000 layer chickens were on hand in the United States, 90.39 percent of the number in April 1944. Also the 1945 numbers produced 94.81 percent of the eggs produced by the 1944 numbers.

Receipts in the west continued to decline the past week, and demand for all grades was in excess of available supplies. Very little stock found its way into storage.

Wholesale prices compared (Consumer Grade)

	<u>Large A</u>		<u>Medium A</u>		<u>Small A</u>	
	1945	1944	1945	1944	1945	1944
Los Angeles	40 $\frac{1}{2}$	35 $\frac{1}{2}$ -37	37 $\frac{1}{2}$	30-31	35 $\frac{1}{2}$	22-23
Portland	40	33-34	37	29 $\frac{1}{2}$ -30 $\frac{1}{2}$	35	22 $\frac{1}{2}$ -23 $\frac{1}{2}$
San Francisco	40 $\frac{1}{2}$	36-37	37 $\frac{1}{2}$	30-30 $\frac{1}{2}$	35	21-23 $\frac{1}{2}$
Seattle	40	37-39	37	31 $\frac{1}{2}$ -32 $\frac{1}{2}$	35	24-25

Butter: Although 75 to 85 percent of receipts on the west coast is going to set-aside requirements, supplies on the markets are meeting the civilian red point demand. Production increased slightly the past week, and indications point to increased production during June.

Poultry: Demand for poultry meat has continued well above available supplies during the past week. Supplies of live and dressed poultry on the wholesale markets were limited, and dressing plants experienced difficulty in running the full week.

LIVESTOCK AND MEATS

Cattle: Receipts on the four western markets declined during the past week to 73 percent of the previous weeks receipts, totaling 11,099 head. On the twelve principal markets receipts were 162,800 head, 93 percent of the previous week, but an increase of 6 percent above receipts for the same week in 1944.

Prices on the four western markets advanced as much as 35 cents during the past week, and top quotations on Good to Choice fed steers ranged \$15.70 to \$18.00. On Good grass fed steers the top range was \$15.50 to \$16.75.

Hogs: Receipts on both the four western and twelve principal markets continued downward during the past week, and totaled 7,182 head and 160,200 head respectively. These totals were 78 percent and 91 percent of the previous weeks receipts.

Top prices on the four western markets continued to hold firmly at ceiling on support weights.

Sheep: A total of 13,970 head was received on the four western markets during the past week, 78 percent of receipts for the previous week. On the twelve principal markets there was a gain of 2 percent making a total of 261,800 head, and a gain of 19.6 percent above the same week last year.

Top prices on Good to Choice spring lambs on the four western markets ranged \$13.75 to \$15.50. At the close of the week the markets were mostly steady, but showed a slightly weaker tendency.

GRAIN PRODUCTS

Wheat: Cash wheat on the Portland market closed the week about 2 cents higher than the previous week.

Harvesting of the new crop in California has started in some of the early sections of the southern portion of the San Joaquin Valley, and Southern California. Rains in the Pacific Northwest have been benificial toward rounding out the crop.

Number 1 Soft White, at Portland, closed the week at \$1.55 per bushel bulk, and at San Francisco \$2.85 per 100 sacked basis.

Barley: Harvesting in the earlier sections of California continued despite cooler weather. However in some sections rain delayed progress in harvesting. In other barley sections rain was beneficial.

In the southwest prices declined as much as 5 cents per hundred from the previous week. In the Pacific Northwest, prices held at ceiling.

PLH/5/5/45

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